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SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 1916.

A Line o' Cheer Each Day o' the Year.
 By JOHN KENDRICK BANGS.

First printing of an original poem, written daily for The Washington Herald.

THE CLEAVAGE.

Two things I like to think of in this world of overhurry—
 The Goodness of Duty, and the Wickedness of Worry.
 They mark the line of cleavage 'twixt the paths that lead us on
 To high reward or failure, to success or grief anon.

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There will be a lot of disappointment over in New York tonight if Willard and Moran show up in the ring as a pair of pacifists.

At any rate the fate of Verdun is enveloped in mystery no deeper than that which surrounds the activities and the prospects of Francisco Villa.

Sometimes it appears that the House of Representatives itself, as well as the Congressional Record, would be improved by a little expurgating.

If it is true that Senator Penrose is willing that Roosevelt should have the Republican nomination the Colonel, if he runs true to form, will reject it with scorn and loathing.

Two Harvard men have formed a partnership to prove that songs written in good English may become popular. They may be right, if the songs are set to music sufficiently barbaric.

Just to prove to the administration that it is quite right in regarding the discussion of conditions in Mexico as dangerous, the Senate went to work and got into a row over it.

A bread-baking contest among pupils of the public schools is planned as a feature of the war on waste to be conducted by the Housekeepers' Alliance. Something in the nature of a horrible example, probably.

Congress has decided not to investigate the claim of Dr. Cook that he was the original discoverer of the North Pole; and when Congress declines to investigate anything it may be taken for granted that it is in a serious plight.

The chief clerk of the United States Legation at Sofia has been arrested on account of a present he gave to a Bulgarian official. This seems to be taking the matter altogether too seriously; he probably gave all he could afford.

Poughkeepsie, N. Y., is deeply concerned over the sudden disappearance of a barber who recently fell heir to \$62,000. And yet who could blame him if he took a short cut to the railway station and caught the next train out by a close shave.

That Chinese governor who, upon learning that a number of army officers were plotting to kill him, invited them to dinner and had them beheaded as they sat at table, probably had the job done right after the bird's-nest soup, so as to save his food as well as his life.

The statement of a pro-German banker of New York that "Germany is tired of war and wants peace, if she can have it on her own terms," is given prominence in the newspapers of the Metropolis; and there are people right here in Washington who could have guessed it.

The House Committee on Labor, in favorably reporting the bill prohibiting the use of stop watches for standardizing the work of employees in government manufacturing establishments and the giving of bonuses for fast work, apparently gives indorsement to the old maxim "the more haste the less speed," as well as a jab to the efficiency fanatics.

The new German program of sinking without warning all armed ships of enemy nations, which according to announcement went into effect on March 1, seems to have been greatly modified, probably because the ships continued to carry their defensive armament. The submarines appear to be restricting their operations to the destruction of the unarmed ships of neutral nations.

An Iowa judge sentenced an 11-year-old schoolboy to nine years in the State reformatory because he refused to salute the American flag. He probably had a brain storm in which he imagined that the child was Huerta, for later on he suspended the sentence. It is fortunate though that the flag has defenders other than those of the type of the Iowa judge.

A bachelor judge of Chicago has secured a transfer from the Court of Domestic Relations because he wants to preserve his few ideals concerning married life that have not been shattered by his experiences on the bench. Having thus gained knowledge from the experience of others it may be that he contemplates finishing his education at his own expense.

Abuse of the Franking Privilege.

The use and abuse of the government frank has again been brought to the attention of the House by the Committee on Printing. The report merits consideration and justifies action to cut out the abuse. The franking privilege for members of Congress is as necessary as the penalty envelope for the government departments. Members of Congress are called upon for all kinds of service now, and their offices are information bureaus and general agencies for their districts, answering all kinds of inquiries touching the government business with letters and documents. This service which has grown with the development of mail and telegraph facilities, will never be less than it is now, and the Senator or Representative who comes to Washington only to legislate will soon discover that his constituents expect a much larger service, including that of general business agent for them in their relations to the government. The letter and document franks will never be abandoned because they are necessary in the Congressional service.

The abuse of the frank is just as clearly an imposition on the people as the use is a necessity for the accommodation of the people. This abuse of the frank costs the government hundreds of thousands of dollars every year and it is not for the personal benefit of Senators and Representatives. It is for the benefit of the lobbyists who are trying to bring pressure upon Congress to enact legislation which Congress would not consider, but for the manufactured pressure brought through the abuse of the franking privilege. A member is persuaded to put into the Congressional Record some material which has been prepared by a lobbyist. That material is then frankable and the lobbyist begs franked envelopes by the thousand to scatter this document broadcast over the country with no expense except to the government.

Capt. Hobson, about a year ago, admitted on the floor of the House that he had furnished a million and a half franks to send out material that a lobbyist had supplied him for insertion in the Congressional Record. Capt. Hobson had become more interested in the propaganda represented by that lobbyist than in his service as a Representative, and he had lost his sense of proportion to consciously unload on the postal service work which cost many thousands of dollars, just to relieve the lobbyist from meeting that cost. It was a flagrant abuse of the government frank, imposing upon all the people the cost of a propaganda managed by a few lobbyists. It was handing over to the lobbyist the free use of the mail for the purpose of lobbying. It matters not what was the avowed purpose, whether good or bad, it was a flagrant abuse of the franking privilege.

A criminal abuse of the frank was brought to light a few years ago by the Postoffice Department. A man who frankly signs himself a lobbyist, with an adjective to imply that his lobby work is moral, secured the insertion in the Record and in committee hearings of a number of documents which he had prepared for a specific purpose. He then gathered these documents into a volume neatly bound with an appropriate title. All of this was permissible under the rules of Congress. He then appealed to Senators and Representatives for franks and it was testified that he secured more than fifty thousand. He used these franks to send his book to people throughout the country with the request that they remit the price or use an enclosed frank to return the same to the author. He professed ignorance of the law which imposes a heavy penalty on a private citizen who uses a frank to carry a private publication, or who sends out a government publication for sale in this manner.

That lobbyist cheated the government out of many thousands of dollars, but since he assumed to do this in a good cause he was not prosecuted, as would have been done in the case of another lobbyist using a frank in a private business transaction.

These two incidents of recent years illustrate how insidious and how common has become the abuse of government franks by lobbyists. If men who assume to represent moral reforms can unblushingly rob the government, it will not be long before lobbyists who are frankly selfish will follow the precedent. The abuse of the frank as an instrument of the lobbyist should be abolished before it becomes necessary to send somebody to the penitentiary.

Strange Police Court Spectacle.

Two members of the Washington police force are to appear as defendants in the Police Court this morning, a circumstance unusual in itself, but the more so because they are to be prosecuted by the United States District attorney and defended by counsel for the District Commissioners, assigned to the duty at the request of the superintendent of police. The citizens of Washington are vitally interested in the case, because, carried to a conclusion, it will bring a judicial answer to the question whether the performance of a policeman's duty requires or permits him to enter by force or by stealth a private dwelling, in the day or night.

The defendants are charged with unlawfully and without warrant entering at 2 o'clock in the morning a home occupied solely by a woman and her young daughter, so terrifying them that the mother appealed to the police station for help. Heretofore the citizens of Washington have recognized no such right as being vested in the members of the police force, but obviously the District Commissioners and the superintendent of police are convinced that the act of which the men are accused was a lawful act, committed in the proper discharge of their duty, else they would be found on the side of the United States District attorney, assisting in the prosecution of the policemen instead of defending them, through their legal representative.

The chief and very large concern of the public therefore lies in the presentation in court of all the facts, so that when the verdict is rendered all doubt as to what a householder's rights are in his own home may be removed. With such able counsel on either side, representing the government of the United States and the government of the District of Columbia, citizens may confidently look for a decision that will put an end to the present dangerous situation growing out of a course of conduct on the part of the police which they and their superiors regard as strictly within their line of duty, but which the citizens have always considered as ordinary housebreaking.

Profanity In the Drama.

By JOHN D. BARRY.

An inexperienced playwright once took a three-act play to a manager. It dealt with cowboy life in the Southwest. When the manager had read it, he conferred with the writer. "There is too much profanity in it, for one thing," he remarked. The writer looked astonished. "But those cowboys swear all the time," he replied.

"No matter. There's no excuse for profanity on the stage in such large doses. The audience would resent it. Besides, it doesn't help you to make those cowboys real. Any one can swear."

The manager had the secret of the matter. Most profanity, as he plainly saw, is conventional language. It is like those formulas that amateur writers so often fall into where they ought to use expressions of their own. Profanity, besides being offensive, to most playgoers, is hackneyed. It can be justified only occasionally, and then through its originality or through some peculiar twist given it by the dramatist. Moreover, its use diverts attention from the play. Instead of continuing to listen, people in the audience are likely to turn to their neighbors and exchange glances or smiles or comments.

A profane word always sticks out of a play, instead of being a legitimate part. The word "damn," it is true, invariably gets a laugh; but its use achieves one of the cheapest of effects and one of the least desirable.

In "The Moth and the Flame," Clyde Fitch succeeded in making profanity seem unconventional and amusing by letting it come from a woman. He cleverly managed to keep the audience sympathetic by winning sympathy for the woman. She was a member of the fashionable world, with a good heart and brusque ways. Moreover, her profanity, though frequently used, was decidedly mild. In another play, "The City," Mr. Fitch was more daring. During a highly emotional crisis, he let one of the characters break out into a fearful oath, common enough among men, but never before spoken in a drama presented before an American audience of the higher class, perhaps of any class. It created a sensation. Many playgoers felt it justified itself through being a natural expression of the moment, through conveying as no other words could, intensity of feeling. But it was really a theatrical device and by no means necessary. Its effect, moreover, was superficial. Instead of making a deep appeal, it simply jarred the nerves. Moreover, it distracted attention from the play itself. It caused people to make remarks like: "Did you hear that?" or "Wasn't that awful?" Meanwhile the play was speeding on, getting away from them.

The dramatist who goes down below the surface does not need to resort to profanity or any other claptrap device. The art of drama depends on suggestion. There are many ways of conveying suggestion. In a play dealing with the life of cowboys, swearing does not add to the reality. It is, after all, a surface matter, of no real artistic interest. But there is artistic interest in the use of profanity by a woman of the fashionable world, or by even among illiterate women who belong between the two worlds, there is known to be a widespread use of profanity. The truth is that swearing has become somewhat of a fad among women. Once women who swore were ashamed of the habit and indulged only in private, that is, only among their intimates. Now many women swear publicly and freely, with a certain pride. They evidently regard the practice as rather laudable and attractive, possibly as a sign that they are very up-to-date and knowing. And yet they must be aware that among nearly all men their use of swear words is exceedingly offensive. But of course they are following the intimacy of the home life or the all-knowing in the presence of children of both sexes, men often give themselves up to paroxysms of profanity.

To suggest that women swear would be a perfectly legitimate service of the dramatist. To make women in a drama would be decidedly worth while. It might serve the purpose of letting women who think it is clever to swear see just how repulsive their habit is. But it would require a good deal of art to perform this artistic feat and not offend taste. For, no matter how clever a play may be, if it offends taste, it is worthless. In this connection it is worth noting that there is one thing as public taste which, at times, seems to be much higher than public morals.

I think it could be shown that there is less swearing in plays nowadays than there used to be. Both playwrights and managers avoid it, the playwrights because they know it is both unnecessary and because they know it is both unnecessary to protect their patrons. And yet, however, it is not nearly so corrupting as suggestions and innuendoes, that one hears in many popular plays, often given in conditions supposed to carry with them not only decency but refinement. There are men that think it is clever to swear, even before women. They take a kind of pride and pleasure in shocking. Here they give only an expression of qualities that find many other expressions, vanity, conceit and arrogance, and inability to control themselves. Characters of this kind have plenty of color and lend themselves ideally to stage treatment. But they can be made clear by a good dramatist, one that really knows his business, without the use of the swear-words.

Swearing, after all, is only one of the many expressions of lack of self-control or of good manners or of personal tyranny. On the stage this lack can be indicated in many other ways than by the use of words that divert attention from the play itself.

Neutral Victims of War.

Ninety-two neutral vessels have been torpedoed, ninety-four have been sunk by mines, and twenty-three have been damaged, by both means. The mine, hit by accident, and the torpedo, fired by intention, have been about equally disastrous to the shipping of nations that are not parties to this war. The promiscuous scattering of mines is an outrage on neutral commerce, but the striking fact is that the submarines, which ought not to torpedo anything without knowing what it is, have sunk ninety-two neutral vessels and injured others. Submarine warfare against commerce has got to be proscribed—Philadelphia Record.

OUR COY-OW
OUR PRESIDENT
A History of the American People
WOODROW WILSON

The Masters of Party Strategy.

Published by a special arrangement with the President through The McClure Newspaper-Syndicate.

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Congress had already abolished slavery in the District of Columbia, prohibited slavery in the Territories, repealed the fugitive slave law, and bestowed freedom upon the negroes who had served in the federal armies. The amendment was to complete the work of emancipation, and make the results of the war once for all safe against reaction.

The votes of the Southern States were necessary to make up the three-fourths vote of the States required to ratify the amendment. Those who accepted Mr. Lincoln's terms of rehabilitation ratified it without hesitation; no one doubted that a condition precedent to the single task had been long strife that had rent the Union; and on the 18th of December, 1865, it was proclaimed an integral part of the law of the constitution.

But there were men in Congress, true spokesmen of thousands of men out-of-doors, thoughtful and thoughtful, with consciences and without, who meant to go much further. By some means they meant to thrust their hands into Southern affairs, to control them, to make good the freedom and the rights of the negro even at the cost of all privilege to those who had been their masters.

To some such a course seemed a mere dictate of humanity; the nation owed it to the negro. But the federal power until he was able to make his freedom good for himself unassisted.

Monday: A Radical Beginning.

The Herald's Army and Navy Department
 Latest and Most Complete News of Service and Personnel Published in Washington.

By E. B. JOHNS.

Under the directions of a joint board of army and navy officers, the battleships Arkansas and New York, attacked a battery of the defenses of Fort Morgan, Ala. The experiment was the outgrowth of a year's correspondence between the War and Navy Departments, which resulted in the appointment of the board to arrange for the test of the strength of the coast defenses to resist attacks from the sea.

While all of the details of the effect of the fire from the battleships upon the shore battery are confidential, it became known yesterday that the guns of the battery were not seriously injured. The battleship showed a great accuracy of fire and tore up the earth of the emplacement, but were unable to reach the guns in the short battle. The experiment, it is said, was a repetition of the experience of the English fleet in attacking the shore batteries at the Dardanelles.

The well-directed fire from the fourteen and twelve-inch guns of the Arkansas and New York simply were not able to do much damage to the coast defense out of commission.

It is stated that all types of fourteen and twelve-inch projectiles were used, and that the effect of the different types, the range of the fire was from three to ten miles. Aeroplanes were used in the attack, and a new type of smaller ship, 20,000 anchor mines and 10,000 floating mines, 500 aeroplanes of all types, twenty-five balloons and ten dirigibles.

The additional facilities needed for the maintenance of the fleet include two fortified bases, one at Culebra and another at Guam, and a number of smaller docks, two at Norfolk and one each at Philadelphia, San Francisco, and New York.

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The availability of Capt. Sims as Chief of the Bureau of Navigation, grows out of the fact that he is a strong advocate of the promotion by selection, which is the most important feature of the Navy Department's personnel bill. It is stated that if Congress should enact this recommendation of the department into law, the chief of the Navy Department would be the man to see that the bill was carried out.

Capt. Sims is not a stranger at Washington. Few officers of the navy have a wider circle of acquaintances in official circles.

In a letter to Senator W. L. Jones, of Washington, Secretary of War, Baker informed that he intended to adhere to the policy of his predecessor in enforcing the order which prohibits army officers from discussing at public meetings the question of national defense. One of the defense organizations in Spokane, Wash., had invited Col. Edwin Glenn, chief of staff of the Eastern Department, to deliver an address on preparedness. Col. Glenn, in answer, referred the request to the War Department and the Secretary of War declined to permit the officer to accept the invitation.

In answering an inquiry of Senator Jones, Secretary Baker quoted the neutrality order that was issued at the beginning of the European war. Lieut. J. W. Greenleaf, Twenty-fifth Infantry, reported at the War Department yesterday.

Members of the House Naval Committee during the hearings which have been in progress for several weeks, have heard much concerning the lack of ships which would contribute to a well-balanced fleet. At the instance of Representative Roberts, Capt. J. S. McKean, U. S. N., assistant to the chief of operations, has furnished information, including ships, munitions,

SEEN AND HEARD
 BY GEORGE MINER
 Special Correspondent of The Washington Herald.
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Merida, Yucatan, March 15.—For the benefit of any good people who may have been misled by my letters from here so that when they die they will head for Yucatan instead of Heaven, I am going to set down a few of the "outs" about this place that make it easily distinguishable from paradise.

Although I've never been in Heaven, from what I've heard about it I am sure that it does not in the least resemble Yucatan. If it does, I imagine that a number of saints would wish they had been sinners and got a sentence to the other place.

Now as to the heat. They tell you it is nothing to consider, for that one can always be cool by staying in the shade. In other words, stay out of the heat. So the natives say if it's hot keep cool. But you can't go to Yucatan and hibernate in a cave-like house to keep comfortable. It is necessary to go out in the sun to attend to business and get food for many other reasons. So you do get hot and usually hot and pretty near melt. People who don't like hot weather should keep away from here.

Keep Out of the Kitchen. Now the natives in Merida are very clean personally. They all bathe every day and put on clean clothes. But right there they get messy when they eat a meal and come to a dead stop. Many of their habits are disgusting and all the cooking that I saw was done in a filthy kitchen. If you have a good appetite for your appetite get out of a Mexican kitchen. You will see things there that will set you fasting for forty days and longer if you live and still stay in the country.

Even though you remain in blissful ignorance of the nastiness of the cooking you are not going to like the food when you do get it. It is a little bit, for from an American standpoint they have about the worst food in the world.

The Americans accustomed to the great abundance and variety and excellence of food all over the United States, the scantiness and inferiority of edible things in Yucatan is unbelievable. What little they do have they cook atrociously, to an American's taste at least.

Of their food and mutton there are very little and what there is would be scorned by any dog with class to him. In the Merida market, venison was the only kind to be had. There is a good deal of it in the country and it is about the only meat the Indians ever eat. It is a little bit of ham and bacon imported from Chicago, but I don't recommend Yucatan pork. I have seen the chickens and the mutton there are very little and what there is would be scorned by any dog with class to him.

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"Si, señor," he said. "You find him dead?" How you say it that "tough" Toughable, durable. I don't know if it got it right. That's what the turkey meat down here is—durable.

"Vegetables are there in hardy, but outside of the everlasting black beans ground up into a paste and fried. They have a few peas and some small potatoes. Nothing else. Not that they care to cook them. It is just because they don't."

PRIME BUTTER IS RARIED.

The butter is nearly all imported in this. It's strong and rancid, but that's the way the Mexicans like it. There is no milk to speak of in the cities, for this is not a grazing country.

But he perks it all the windows before he tackles the butter. Russell has a good deal of his shoe and his wife has all the aphids, pollah and initials of a society leader, but she can't get the fatality of the flame in the kitchen.

The only thing I get on the city follows is the Indian girl, said Russell. He is proficient in six tribal languages.

The interest in the house has not waned, that he is in no danger of becoming a victim of the disease, the dog, or the mug. Sum of Solger's American parts is proven by the interest taken in the white sale at Madison Square Garden last week.

She reported the general average price paid for a total of 20 sold was \$24, more than the general average at the same sale last year. Only remotely can this greater demand and higher price be traced to the European war.

Through the kind of kind placed under the hammer at this sale are not used in war. The automobile is all very well in war, and it brings up distance as no horse can, but nobody could run with an automobile as so many hundreds of persons pal with horses.

Every now and then you hear of something which really gives you an idea how big New York really is. For instance, the Schochet Union-poultry killery licensed under Jewish religious laws have gone on a strike. They want 1 cent a chicken for killing. The poultry dealers have refused their demands, offering statistics to show that at such a price per chicken the union would receive \$2,000 a week.

